THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Luke 10:25-37.
Devotional Reading: I John 2:1-11.

My Neighbor

Lesson for December 11, 1955

Dr. Foreman

TWO cart-drivers in China were trying to get up a muddy hill. Each driver's cart was stuck in the mud, almost side by side. Each man was beating his own scrawny horse, but the wheels were stuck fast. Along came an American. "Why don't you unhitch one horse," he said "and hitch him to the other cart? Then the two horses might get the cart out of the mud." The carters were astonished. They had never thought of that. But they did as the stranger said, and sure enough they both got to the top of the hill. That true story, told by a missionary, shows two things at once. One is that in countries where Christianity has had a chance to get around, some simple Christian ideas get taken for granted, such as helping your neighbor when he is in trouble. The other is that where Christianity is unknown, even so simple a thing as getting together to pull out of the mud, comes as a strange new idea.

Who Is My Neighbor?

Now if those two Chinese carters had been father and son, or brother and brother, they might have thought of helping each other, for in China nothing is too good for members of your family. But we have no great right to make fun of the Chinese. All of us are inclined to draw pretty hard lines and to think,—Outside those lines I have no neighbors. Inside the lines, yes, we understand pretty well what neighborliness is. "Love thy neighbor as thyself" is a commandment not too hard to understand, for we know what it is to love ourselves, that comes all too naturally. We like to get ahead, to cushion ourselves from danger and if possible from discomfort, we consult our own interests. Loving one's neighbor as oneself just means looking out for him in the same careful ways, thinking ahead for him, promoting him. We understand what neighborliness is, yes. We do not confuse it with being meddlesome. If you want to know as much about your neighbor as you do about yourself, you aren't being a neighbor but a nuisance. If you do for your neighbor what he can very well do, ought to do and maybe wants to do for himself, then you are not treating him like a neighbor

Neighbors Out of Sight

Jesus' famous parable of the Good Samaritan shows that having neighbors is easy, in fact you can't help it; but that the important thing is being a neighbor. It means more than living in "peaceful co-existence" and not bothering each other. It means active co-operation and help, of those who need help. Wherever there is a person in trouble whom we can help, there is a neighbor. In our time the world has grown closer together than it was in Jesus' time. If there had been a famine in India, the good Samaritan would never have known it, or if he had, he could have done nothing about it. Now if there is a famine in India we hear about it as soon as the Indians can; and we can do something about it too. When farmers in a church in Iowa, for instance, send a heifer to a farmer in some out-of-the-way or devastated part of the world across a wide ocean, that is being a neighbor, modern-style for a modern world.

What We Haven't Figured Out

There are many problems we haven't worked out yet, in this business for acting as good neighbors. For example: What is the wisest way to be neighbor to people of different race from our own? How can a mill-worker be a neighbor to the stock-holders, or how can the stock-holders be neighborly to the workers? When a corporation, in the process of expansion, throws 500 persons out of work at one time, is there any way in which those who are employed by the corporation can be neighbors to those who have lost their positions? How can we be neighbors to people who resent us? How far can we go in helping people without turning them into "moochers" and beggars? How can Christians in one denomination be neighbors to those in another? And one more question: Is it possible for non-Christians to be as good neighbors, in Jesus' sense of the word, as Christians can be?

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Home Agent's Notes

By Mrs. B. G. Anderson
Home Demonstration Agent

One of the best ways to insure a Merry Christmas is to make sure it is a safe Christmas— "and the place to start making Christmas safe is right in the house." So says an article in the current issue of the American Home magazine.

The article points out that the Christmas tree itself is the greatest potential fire hazard—unless properly cared for.

The best thing, of course, is to allow the tree to remain outdoors until the last possible minute. This will keep it from drying too rapidly.

Then, water the tree. Cut off the trunk at an angle a few inches from the original cut. Then stand it in a container holding enough water to cover the lower few inches. Once inside, keep the tree away from the fireplace or radiator or any other heating device. If there's a fireplace be sure it is screened. Be sure all ornaments used are fire resistant. As soon as the holidays are over, the tree should be taken out of the house.

Here are some suggections for choosing safe toys for different age groups of children: the "hand to mouth" age, up to 2 years, etc.—

The "hand to mouth" age—up to 2 years: For a safe Christmas — sturdy rattles — brightly colored objects, hung in view — rubber or washable squeak toys and stuffed dolls or animals — large, soft colored balls — blocks with rounded corners — push and pull toys with strings or rounded handles — nests of objects.

Avoid small toys which may be swallowed — flammable objects—toys with small removable parts — poisonous paint on any object — stuffed animals with galss or button eyes.

The Expolrative Age — 2 to 3 years. For a safe Christmas —sand box with a bucket, shovel and spoon —large peg boards — wooden animals — cars and wagons to push around — tip-proof kiddie cars and tricycles — large crayons — low rocking horse — small chair and table. Avoid: anything with sharp or rough edges which will cut or scratch — objects with small removable parts — poisonous paint or decoration — marbles — beads — coins — flammable toys.

The "Let's Pretend" age — 3 to 4 years: For a safe Christmas — small broom and carpet sweeper—toy teelphone — dolls with sumple wrap-around clothing — doll buggies and furniture — dishes — miniature garden tools — trucks and tractors — non-electric train — drum — costume clothes — building blocks. Avoid: toys which are too heavy for child's strength — poorly made objects which may come apart, break or splinter — sharp or cutting toys — highly flammable costumes —electrical toys.

Beginning of Creative Age, 4 to 6 years: For a safe Christmas — blackboard and dustless chalk — simple construction sets — paints and paint books — doll house and furniture — small sports equipment —skipping rope — wash tub and board — paper doll sets with blunt end scissors — costumes —modelling clay. Avoid shooting or target toys which will endanger eyes —ill balanced mobile toys (tricycles, wagons, etc.) which may topple easily —poisonous painting sets — pinching or cutting objects.

Beginning of Dexterity Age — 6 to 8 years: For a safe Christmas — carpenter bench and well-constructed light-weight tools — sled—construction sets — roller skates — approved electrical toys — kites — equipment for playing store, bank, filling station, etc. — playground equipment — puzzles and games, sewing materials — dolls and doll equipment. Avoid non-approved electrical toys — anything too large or complicated for child's strength and ability — sharp edged tools — poorly made skates — conductible kites —shooting toys.

BULLET IN PIPE

Jensen Beach, Fla.- When Cliff Boone touched a match to his pipe, while fishing recently, his pipe exploded. When Boone recovered from the shock, he expalined to other fishermen that he had reached into his pocket to fill his pipe with loose tobacco, forgetting that a .22-caliber cartridge was mixed with the tobacco. The bullet flew upward and glanced off the rim of Boone's hat.

GETS DEER BARE-HANDED

Reno, Nev.- Bill Bowman, 45, on a deer hunt, was startled when a deer walked by a bush in which he was hiding. Since he had left his gun several feet away, Bowman just grabbed the animal around its neck and held on. The wrestling match last about two minutes until a hunting companion, Phil Weyrick, ran over and cut the deer's throat.

TIME VALUABLE TO CENTENARIAN

Klaispell, Mont.- After visiting his former klaispell home, William McKinley, now 101, took a plane back to his Seattle home. McKinley explained, "That's the only way I care to travel."

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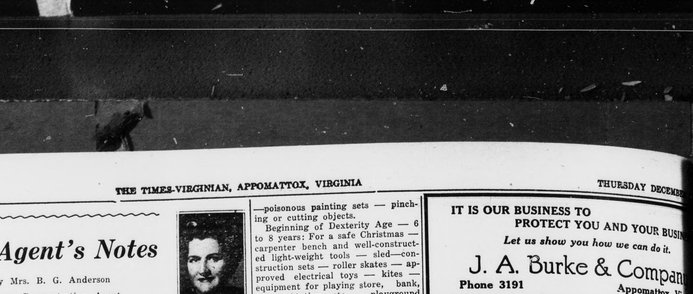

The "One-Fifty" 2-door sedan—one of 4 models in Chevrolet's smart and sprightly "One-Fifty" series.

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TO ALL THE VOTERS OF APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Both Colored and White

If you pay your Poll Taxes by December 12th and Register, I think you will be able to vote in the January 9th, 1956, Election, dealing entirely with Section 141 of our State Constitution, by amending it so each School Child can get Tuition Grants and the School Authorities of each County or City can assign children to Schools.

PLEASE do not under-estimate the necessity or the importance of this election, if you want to keep our Schools as they are now.

If you know of anyone who can vote by mail, please see some officer of the county, or some friend AT ONCE and get an application for an Absentee Ballot, and someone with Notary Public Authority in the county will help you get the Ballot voted.

Help us in every way to get EVERY eligible voter in the County to vote in this Election, if you want to keep our schools as they are. It is of the utmost importance. Watch this paper for announcements of public meetings on this subject.

Chas. T. Moses

(Paid Advertisement)